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WNTC Wants \$3,000 To Fix Transmitters

Funds Cut in 1976

by Bill LaRue

Clarkson College radio station WNT~~C~~ will be asking for Potsdam State student government funds this semester to replace their transmitters on this campus, according to Gary Giebler, assistant program manager at the station.

The station, which had been co-funded by the Potsdam State and Clarkson College student governments until 1976, will be requesting \$3,000 to replace transmitters which allow the station to broadcast by carrier current.

With carrier current, the radio signal is sent over electrical wires, rather than through the more conventional free air system.

WNTC's Potsdam State transmitters are not currently functioning, Giebler said, because of their poor condition.

In April of 1976, Potsdam State's SGA voted 12-3-3 to cut funds to WNT~~C~~. According to one source quoted by *the Racquette* at the time, "WNTC spent a great deal of money developing an FM stereo cable service."

"They let service to State deteriorate," the source explained. "So, the senators saw no reason to continue funding it."

WNTC wants to change all that, Giebler said. "All we want, at this time, is to keep the transmitters on that campus at peak performance."

"State students want better performance, but we can't give it to them until the transmitters get fixed," he added.

Giebler said he hoped the transmitters, located in Bowman, Lehman and Knowles, can be working by long weekend.

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But that's going to be a tough chore, said Tom Bentson WNT~~C~~'s chief engineer. "The first time I saw the WNT~~C~~ transmitter in Knowles, my thought was, 'Boy, that would make a good boat anchor.'"

"There's nothing you can do to totally repair it," he said.

Prez and Trez Pessimistic

The possibility of the Potsdam State student government funding \$3,000 for the transmitters is pretty slim, according to SGA president John Hart: "I don't see any possibility at all."

"If the SGA senate wants to approve it, fine," he added. "But I'll probably veto it."

It would take a 2/3 vote by the senate to override the president's veto.

SGA treasurer Ronald Samulka agreed with Hart that the student government probably wouldn't fund the transmitters.

At present, Samulka explained, "the SGA senate is very concerned over our fiscal status — so much that several reactivated organizations which are seeking funds, have had their requests tabled so that a detailed study can be conducted by the senate. And these organizations are requesting funds substantially less than what WNT~~C~~ is asking."

In the past two years, since the funding of WNT~~C~~ by the Potsdam State student government was cut, WNT~~C~~ has requested funding from SGA and they were denied monies both times, Samulka pointed out.

"I don't believe there is going to be a sudden change of heart," Samulka said.

Different From Others

The station, which has been in operation since 1948, wants to become more responsive to their potential Potsdam State

audience, Giebler said. They are doing this by running more public service announcements directed at this college's students and by a series of contests and give-a-ways.

WNT~~C~~'s format is "geared for the average college listener —

the 18 to 25-year-olds," he said.

But WNT~~C~~ doesn't duplicate the efforts of the two other college-run radio stations, WTSC and WRPS, Giebler said.

"WTSC is strictly progressive," he said. "A lot of people don't like that type of music."

"I can't say that much about WRPS because I don't listen to it. I do know that some DJs from WRPS have come to WNT~~C~~ and we haven't cleared them for the air," he added.

WNT~~C~~ broadcasts at 64 AM carrier current and 90 FM cable.